



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life



Page 9

El Gaucho
ARGENTINE GRILL

**For the BEST
& the
BIGGEST Steak**
and so much more!

Lobby Bar Menu



FRIDAYS

2 FOR 1 Sangria

Lunch Special EVERYDAY 11:30AM - 5PM



\$30.35
+15%SC
TAX IS INCLUDED.

Local Deal SATURDAY



15%OFF For Locals

Open daily from 11:30am - 11pm. Sundays Closed. Wilhelminastraat #80. Oranjestad, Aruba. Phone: +297 582-3677 • www.elgaucho-aruba.com

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM

Full Service Bar

Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com



US filings for jobless benefits fall to 191,000, lowest since September of 2022

By **MATT OTT**
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. applications for unemployment benefits fell to their lowest level in more than three years during Thanksgiving week, potentially complicating the Federal Reserve's upcoming decision on interest rates. The number of Americans applying for jobless benefits for the week ending Nov. 29 fell to 191,000 from the previous week's 218,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's the lowest level since September 24, 2022, when claims came in at 189,000. Analysts surveyed by the data provider FactSet had forecast initial claims of 221,000. Kathy Bostjancic, chief economist at Nationwide, said that unemployment benefit filings are often distorted by the Thanksgiving holiday, which can cause some people who may have lost jobs to delay filing claims. Still, the low claims figure also suggests that overall layoffs remain muted, despite the



"Help Wanted" sign is displayed at a dry cleaner in Rolling Meadows, Ill., Thursday, May 15, 2025.

Associated Press.

high-profile announcements. Hiring is also sluggish, which makes finding a job for those out of work challenging. Applications for unemployment aid are viewed as a proxy for layoffs and are close to a real-time indicator of the health of the job market. The job cuts announced recently by large companies such as UPS, General Motors, Amazon and Verizon typically take weeks or months to fully implement and may not be reflected in Thursday's

data. For now, the U.S. job market appears stuck in a "low-hire, low-fire" state that has kept the unemployment rate historically low. On Wednesday, private payroll data firm ADP estimated U.S. job losses of 32,000 in November. The surprisingly weak report may be discouraging for people looking for jobs, but it bolstered expectations that the Fed will cut its main interest rate next week.

It's not clear how much weight this week's layoff figures will carry with the Fed as the numbers can be volatile and prone to revisions. Complicating the Fed's upcoming decision is inflation, which remains above the central bank's 2% target. The Fed's preferred measure of inflation will be released in a government report on Friday and will also be factored into its rate call on Wednesday. Two weeks ago, the government said that hiring picked up a bit in September, when employers added 119,000 new jobs. That mixed report, which also showed employers had shed jobs in August, was delayed due to the government shutdown. The unemployment rate ticked up to 4.4%, its highest level in four years. November's comprehensive jobs data has been delayed for release until later this month, after the Fed's meeting, also due to the government shutdown. The government also recently reported that retail

sales slowed in September after three months of healthy increases. Consumer confidence has plunged to its second-lowest level in five years, while wholesale inflation eased a bit. The data suggests that both the economy and inflation are slowing, which has boosted financial markets' expectations that the Federal Reserve will reduce its key interest rate at its meeting next week. If the Fed does reduce its benchmark rate next week, it would be the third cut of the year as it attempts to support a job market that has been slowing for months. Thursday's report from Labor also showed that the four-week average of claims, which evens out some of the week-to-week volatility, fell by 9,500 to 214,750. The total number of Americans filing for jobless benefits for the previous week ending Nov. 22 dipped by 4,000 to 1.94 million, the government said. □

Hegseth put troops at risk by sharing sensitive plans on personal phone, Pentagon watchdog finds

By **DAVID KLEPPER, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and BEN FINLEY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth put U.S. troops at risk by sharing sensitive plans about an upcoming military strike in Yemen on his personal phone, according to a Pentagon inspector general's report made public Thursday that criticized the use of unapproved messaging apps and devices across the Defense Department. Hegseth had the authority to declassify the material he shared with others in a Signal chat, the watchdog found. But the release of details about the strike on Houthi militants violated internal Pentagon rules about handling sensitive information that could put service members or their missions in danger. The report noted that the information that Hegseth sent — the quantity and strike

times of manned U.S. aircraft over hostile territory about two hours to four hours before those strikes — "created a risk to operational security that could have resulted in failed U.S. mission objectives and potential harm to U.S. pilots." "If this information had fallen into the hands of U.S. adversaries, Houthi forces might have been able to counter U.S. forces or reposition personnel and assets to avoid planned U.S. strikes," the report said. Hegseth's use of the app came to light when a journalist, Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic, was inadvertently added to a Signal text chain by then-national security adviser Mike Waltz. The report's nuanced findings — that Hegseth's actions put troops at risk but that he had the right to declassify the material — are not likely to relieve the pressure on the former Fox News Channel host. He also is facing scrutiny on Capitol Hill over a report

that a follow-up strike on an alleged drug-smuggling boat in the Caribbean Sea in September killed survivors after Hegseth issued a verbal order to "kill everybody." Hegseth wrote on social media about the inspector general's report: "No classified information. Total exoneration. Case closed. Houthi's bombed into submission." He had declined to be interviewed for the review. In a one-page statement to the inspector general, Hegseth said he had the authority to declassify the information he was sharing on Signal and that there "was nothing classified in this text." "There were no locations or targets identified," he wrote. "There were no details that would endanger our troops or the mission." Hegseth's letter said he was only sharing "an unclassified summary" of operations and that the full details of what was happening were shared separately on a secure net-



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks during a Cabinet meeting at the White House, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, in Washington. Associated Press.

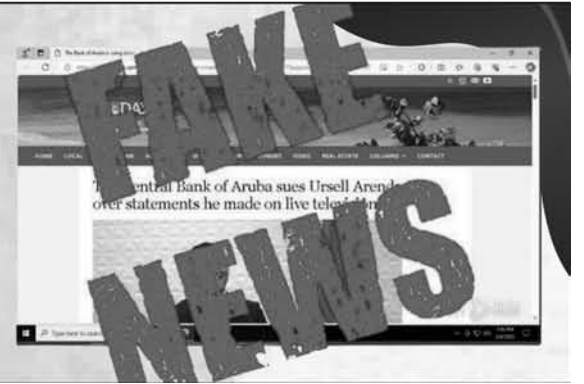
work used by the military. The information he shared on Signal was limited to the "overt actions" of U.S. forces, which he said "would be readily apparent to any observer in the area." But the revelations drew intense scrutiny, with Democratic lawmakers and a small number of Republicans saying Hegseth's posting of

the information to the Signal chats before the military jets had reached their targets potentially put those pilots' lives at risk. Lawmakers also noted that if lower-ranking members of the military had acted similarly, they would have been fired or severely disciplined for failing to maintain operational security. □

Be aware of scams on social media!

Don't click on sponsored ads that are using Aruba Today's likeness. Visit only our official Facebook Page, Aruba Today News or our website, www.arubatoday.com.

If you encounter any problems, we are here to help: news@arubatoday.com



Hearing in Luigi Mangione's state murder case sheds new light on his arrest

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Minutes after police approached Luigi Mangione in a Pennsylvania McDonald's, he told an officer he didn't want to talk, according to video and testimony at a court hearing Thursday for the man charged with killing UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson.

Although some video and accounts of police interactions with Mangione emerged earlier in this week's hearing, Thursday's proceedings shed new light on the lead-up to and aftermath of his Dec. 9, 2024, arrest in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Mangione, 27, appeared to follow the proceedings intently, at times leaning over the defense table to scrutinize papers or take notes. He briefly looked down as Altoona Police Officer Tyler Frye was asked about a strip-search of Mangione after his arrest. Under the department's policy, that search wasn't recorded.

It happened after police were told that someone at the McDonald's resembled the much-publicized suspect in Thompson's killing. But Frye and Officer Joseph Detwiler initially approached Mangione with a low-key tone, saying only that someone had said he looked "suspicious." Asked for his ID, he gave a phony New Jersey driver's license with a fake name, according to prosecutors.

Moments later, after frisking Mangione, Detwiler stepped away to communicate with dispatchers about the license, leaving the rookie Frye by Mangione's table.

"So what's going on? What



Luigi Mangione appears in Manhattan Criminal Court for an evidence hearing, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, in New York.

brings you up here from New Jersey?" Frye asked, according to his body-camera video.

Mangione answered in a low voice. Asked what the suspect had said, Frye testified Thursday: "It was something along the lines of: He didn't want to talk to me at that time."

Mangione later added that "he was just trying to use the Wi-Fi," according to Frye.

During the roughly 20 minutes before Mangione was told he had the right to remain silent, he answered other questions asked by the officers, and also posed a few of his own.

"Can I ask why there's so many cops here?" he asked shortly before being informed he was being arrested on a forgery charge related to his false ID. By that point, roughly a dozen officers had converged on the restaurant, and Man-

gione had been told he was being investigated and had been handcuffed.

Mangione has pleaded not guilty to state and federal murder charges. Before any trials get scheduled, his lawyers are trying to preclude the eventual jurors from hearing about his alleged statements to law officers and items including a gun and a notebook they allegedly seized from his backpack.

The evidence is key to prosecutors' case. They have said the 9 mm handgun matches the firearm used in the killing, that writings in the notebook laid out Mangione's disdain for health insurers and ideas about killing a CEO at an investor conference, and that he gave police the same fake name that the alleged gunman used at a New York hostel days before the shooting.

Thursday's proceedings

came on the anniversary of the killing, which UnitedHealthcare marked by lowering the flags at its headquarters in Minnetonka, Minnesota, and encouraging employees to engage in volunteering.

Thompson, 50, was shot from behind as he walked to an investor conference. He became UnitedHealthcare's CEO in 2021 and had worked within parent UnitedHealth Group Inc. for 20 years.

The hearing, which started Monday and could extend to next week, applies only to the state case. But it is giving the public an extensive preview of some testimony, video, 911 audio and other records relevant to both cases.

After encountering Mangione, Detwiler and Frye tried to play it cool and buy time by intimating that they were simply responding to a loitering complaint and

chatting about his steak sandwich. Still, they patted Mangione down and pushed his backpack away from him. About 15 minutes in, officers warned him that he was being investigated and would be arrested if he repeated what they had determined was a fake name.

After he gave his real one, he was read his rights, handcuffed, frisked again and ultimately arrested on a forgery charge related to his fake ID.

Mangione's lawyers argue that his statements shouldn't be allowed as trial evidence because officers started questioning him before reading his rights. They say the contents of his backpack should be excluded because police didn't get a warrant before searching it.

Manhattan prosecutors haven't yet detailed their arguments for allowing the disputed evidence. Federal prosecutors have maintained that the backpack search was justified to ensure there was nothing dangerous inside, and that Mangione's statements to officers were voluntary and made before he was under arrest.

Many criminal cases see disputes over evidence and the complicated legal standards governing police searches and interactions with potential suspects. □

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

UN warns of new wave of atrocities in Sudan's Kordofan region

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The UN's top human rights official issued a stark new warning Thursday about Sudan, saying he fears "a new wave of atrocities" amid a surge in fierce fighting in the Kordofan region.

UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk urged "all states with influence over the parties to take immediate action to halt the fighting, and stop the arms flows that are fueling the conflict."

Fighting between the paramilitary group the Rapid Support Forces, also known as the RSF, and the Sudanese military, who have been at war for over two years, has recently shifted to the oil-rich Kordofan region after the paramilitary group took over el-Fasher in Darfur.

According to the U.N. the conflict in Sudan has killed 40,000 people though some rights groups say the death toll is significantly higher and has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis with over 14 mil-



Sudanese families displaced from El-Fasher reach out as aid workers distribute food supplies at the newly established El-Afadh camp in Al Dabbah, in Sudan's Northern State, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025.

lion displaced.

The RSF's takeover of el-Fasher, the Sudanese's military's last stronghold in Darfur, was marked by the executions of civilians, rapes and sexual assaults. Over 100,000 people have fled

el-Fasher since October and thousands are feared trapped or believe to have been killed along the way, according to rights groups. The RSF had major gains since then.

"It is truly shocking to see

history repeating itself in Kordofan so soon after the horrific events in el-Fasher," Türk said

"We must not allow Kordofan to become another el-Fasher," he said.

He said over 269 people

were killed in the town of Bara in North Kordofan in aerial strikes, artillery shelling, and summary executions since end of October, but that the numbers could be higher because telecommunications and internet outages have made numbers hard to verify.

He called for "the restoration of telecommunications to facilitate lifesaving assistance and to allow essential information to flow to civilians."

His statement said an RSF drone strike on Nov. 3 killed 45 people, mostly women, in a tent in el-Obeid in North Kordofan, and that Sudanese military aerial strikes on Saturday killed at least 48 people, mostly civilians, in Kauda, South Kordofan.

The RSF was run out of Sudan's capital Khartoum earlier in the year, and for months the fighting has been concentrated in oil-rich Kordofan, a region in southern and central Sudan that controls vital supply lines. □

Associated Press.

Turkey's energy minister warns of threat to oil and gas supplies after tankers targeted

By ANDREW WILKS

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey's energy minister issued a call for the supply of oil and gas in the Black Sea to be protected after three Russian tankers were targeted off the Turkish coast.

Alparslan Bayraktar said Turkey was concerned not just by the threat to shipping but also to two under-sea pipelines, Blue Stream and Turk Stream, that carry natural gas from Russia to Turkey.

Referring to the 2022 sabotage of the Nord Stream pipeline between Russia and Germany, Bayraktar pointed out Turkey's reliance on imported gas.

"We call on all parties to keep the energy infrastructure out of this war because it's part of people's daily lives," he said during a news conference Wednesday. "We need to keep the energy flows uninterrupted

in the Black Sea and the (Bosphorus and Dardanelles) straits."

Ukraine said its naval drones struck two tankers on Nov. 28. The third vessel was struck Tuesday as it headed toward the Turkish port of Sinop. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the earlier attacks as a threat to "navigational

safety, life and the environment, especially in our own exclusive zone."

Russian oil and gas provide nearly half of Turkey's total energy needs. The NATO member has come under pressure from Washington to reduce its reliance on Russia's hydrocarbons.

When Erdogan visited Donald Trump in September,

the U.S. president urged him to ease ties to Moscow, including in the energy sector. During the same trip, Turkish companies signed a multibillion-dollar deal with U.S. firms to buy liquefied natural gas. Defending Turkey's purchase of Russian oil and gas, Bayraktar said Russia had proved to be "a very reliable supply to the Turkish market" since Turkish households started switching to gas in the 1980s.

He said, however, "it's not a secret that we need to have a balanced supply portfolio. We don't want to rely on one supply country or a few countries."

Turkey was "trying to diversify our supply countries and get competitive gas," Bayraktar added.

Turkey's state-owned oil and gas company, BOTAS, recently finalized a contract with Russia's Gazprom to supply gas, the minister said.

Turkey also is engaged with Russia in nuclear energy. Rosatom, a Russian state corporation, is building a nuclear power plant on Turkey's Mediterranean coast. The Akkuyu power plant's four reactors are expected to generate around 10% of Turkey's electricity when it comes online. However, the project has been beset by delays exacerbated by sanctions imposed on Russian entities in the wake of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The first electricity from Akkuyu would be produced next year, Bayraktar said.

The project's administrators had turned to China to provide components that western companies were unwilling to offer due to sanctions, but it still suffers financing issues including \$2 billion "stuck in JP Morgan for a long time" when the West froze Russian assets, Bayraktar said. □



Turkish Deputy Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar gestures during a discussion on stage at the Gastech 2021 conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sept. 21, 2021.

Associated Press.

UK sanctions Russia's GRU spy agency over 2018 nerve agent attack

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain sanctioned Russia's GRU military intelligence agency and summoned Moscow's ambassador on Thursday after an inquiry concluded that President Vladimir Putin was responsible for a nerve agent attack on British soil in 2018.

The government said that the GRU was being sanctioned in its entirety for "reckless" acts including the attack in the city of Salisbury that targeted Sergei Skripal, a former GRU officer who was imprisoned in Russia in 2006 for spying for Britain. He was released as part of a 2010 spy swap and settled in the U.K.

Skripal and his daughter Yulia Skripal became seriously ill in March 2018 after being exposed to the nerve agent Novichok, which had been smeared on the handle of the ex-spy's front door. A police officer, Nick Bailey, also was sickened. All three survived.



Personnel in protective gear work on a van in Winterslow, England, March 12, 2018, as investigations continue into the nerve-agent poisoning of former Russian intelligence officer Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia.

Three months later, British woman Dawn Sturgess, 44, and her partner Charlie Rowley collapsed after they found a discarded

perfume bottle containing Novichok. Sturgess had sprayed the contents of the bottle on her wrist and died days later. Rowley survived.

Moscow has denied any role in the poisonings. In 2018, Putin dismissed Sergei Skripal as "just a scumbag" of no interest to the Kremlin.

Associated Press.

Former U.K. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Hughes, who led an inquiry into Sturgess' death, said that the attempt to kill Sergei Skripal "must have been authorized at the highest level, by President Putin."

He concluded that Sturgess was "an innocent victim of an attempt by officers of a Russian state organization to conduct an assassination on the streets of Salisbury using a highly toxic nerve agent."

Sturgess' family said she died as a "direct result of Russia's cruel and cynical attempt to assassinate Sergei Skripal." But they said British authorities' failure to assess how much threat Skripal was under "put the British public at risk, and led to Dawn's death."

"Adequate risk assessment of Skripal was not done, but no protective steps were put in place," they said in a statement.

"That is a serious concern, for us now, and for the future." □

Asia flood death toll surpasses 1,500 as calls grow to fight deforestation

By ADE YUANDHA and
NINIEK KARMINI
Associated Press

PADANG, Indonesia (AP) — The death toll from last week's catastrophic floods and landslides in parts of Asia surged past 1,500 Thursday as rescue teams raced to reach survivors isolated by the disaster with hundreds of people still unaccounted for across the region.

The latest figure came as meteorologists warned of renewed rainfall across North Sumatra, West Sumatra, and Aceh in coming days, sparking fears of further devastation in areas already reeling from deadly floods.

The tragedy was compounded by warnings that decades of deforestation caused by unchecked development, mining and palm oil plantations may have worsened the devastation. Calls grew for the

government to act.

"We need the government to investigate and fix forest management," said Ranga Adiputra, a 31-year-old teacher whose home in West Sumatra was swept away. The hills above his village on the outskirts of Padang city had been scarred by illegal logging. "We don't want this costly disaster to happen again," he said.

Authorities said 836 people were confirmed dead in Indonesia, 479 in Sri Lanka and 185 in Thailand, as well as three in Malaysia.

Many villages in Indonesia and Sri Lanka remained buried under mud and debris, with 859 people still unaccounted for in both countries.

Thousands reportedly faced severe shortages of food and clean water in cut off areas. The floods and landslides washed away roads and bridges

and knocked out telecommunications, leaving many communities inaccessible. Indonesian television showed images of huge amounts of felled timber carried downstream in North Sumatra, West Sumatra and Aceh provinces.

The leading Indonesian environmental group WALHI said that decades of deforestation driven by mining, palm oil plantations, and illegal logging stripped away natural defenses that once absorbed rainfall and stabilized soil.

"The disaster was not just nature's fury, it was amplified by decades of deforestation," said Rianda Purba, an activist with the group. "Deforestation and unchecked development have stripped Sumatra of its resilience."

The group recorded more than 240,000 hectares (nearly 600,000 acres) of



Flood survivors react as they receive relief goods during an aerial aid distribution using national disaster mitigation agency's helicopter in North Aceh, Indonesia, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025.

Associated Press.

primary forest were lost in 2024 alone, leaving Sumatra's small river basins dangerously exposed.

Another environmental group, Global Forest Watch, has said the flood-inundated Indonesian provinces of Aceh, North Sumatra and West Sumatra have since 2000 lost

19,600 square kilometers (7,569 square miles) of forest, an area larger than the state of New Jersey.

"Unless restoration begins now, more lives will be lost," Purba warned.

President Prabowo Subianto pledged policy reforms after visiting flood-hit areas on Monday. □

Vatican commission again says no to ordaining women as deacons, but urges other ministries

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A second Vatican study commission has determined that women should not be ordained as deacons, dealing another setback to Catholic women who hope one day to be able to preside at weddings, baptisms and funerals.

The Vatican on Thursday took the unusual step of publishing a synthesis of the commission's findings, including the members' votes on specific theological questions. The report left open the possibility of further study but proposed instead the creation of new lay ministries for women outside the ordained diaconate, suggesting that the issue for now is closed.

Deacons are ordained ministers who perform many of the same functions as priests, presiding at weddings, baptisms and funerals. They can preach but cannot celebrate Mass. For male seminarians, the diaconate is a transitional ministry on their way to being ordained as priests. Married men can also be ordained as permanent deacons. Women cannot, although historians say women served as dea-



Pope Leo XIV talks to reporters aboard an airplane as he returns from a six-day visit to Turkey and Lebanon, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025.

cons in the early Christian church.

Pope Francis in 2016 ordered a first study commission on the issue following a request from the umbrella organization of the world's female religious orders, the International Union of Superiors General. After that commission apparently failed to reach consensus, Francis created a second study commission in 2020, named for its president, president Cardinal Giuseppe Petrocchi, which released its report Thursday.

The members were not identified.

Petrocchi though concluded that there are two currently irreconcilable schools of theological thought on the question, requiring the Vatican to take a prudential approach. One school of thought would allow for a female diaconate, while the other would not.

Given the impasse, the current state of research "rules out the possibility of moving in the direction of admitting women to the diaconate understood as a degree of

the sacrament of Holy Orders" the report said.

But it left open the possibility for further study, saying the current state of investigation doesn't allow for a "definitive judgment to be formulated."

Some Catholic women want ministerial recognition. Catholic women do much of the church's work in schools and hospitals and are usually responsible for passing the faith to the next generation. But they have long complained of second-class status in an

institution that reserves the priesthood for men.

In many parts of the world, they have pressed for greater roles in both decision-making management jobs and ministerial vocations.

Discerning Deacons, a U.S.-based group pressing for the ordination of women deacons, expressed disappointment at the report's conclusions. It called for a "wider, more inclusive process" to keep studying the issue and vowed to carry on advocating.

"The Petrocchi Commission's findings reflect only a small sampling of the church," the group said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press. "We believe a wider, more inclusive process one that takes seriously the experience and vocation of women is needed. This moment invites deeper listening, not closure."

Women's Ordination Conference, a U.S.-based group that advocates for women priests, said it was "appalled" by the Vatican's "refusal to open its doors to women, even a crack. Make no mistake: this is a decision that will harm the global church," the group said. □

Associated Press.



This image released by Moldova's Police on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, shows a drone in Pepeni, Moldova.

Associated Press.

Moldovan police investigate a drone that a resident thought was a toy and took home

Associated Press

CHISINAU, Moldova (AP) — Police in Moldova deployed bomb disposal experts Wednesday to a community miles from the Ukrainian border after a resident mistook a grounded drone for "a toy" and took it home.

When police arrived in Pepeni in Singerei district, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) north of the capital, Chisinau, they discovered that the drone found four days earlier had already been stripped of its parts.

Police said the drone did not contain explosives or pose a danger, and urged the public to "not touch or attempt to transport fallen drones or similar objects."

Authorities did not say where the drone came from. They said it was a Gerbera-type drone typically used for improvised attacks or observation. Russia has used those in Ukraine.

Police had been tipped off by Pepeni's mayor. Video footage posted by city hall on social media showed the drone atop a trailer hooked to a small tractor commonly used in rural settlements.

"A citizen thought it was a toy ... and brought it into the locality of Pepeni," Mayor Oleg Cernei says in the video. "As soon as it appeared within the boundaries of the commune, I identified the person and informed the state institutions."

The incident is the latest in a string of airspace breaches and drone discoveries on Moldovan territory since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Last week, Moldova's airspace was breached multiple times by unmanned aerial vehicles during Russian attacks on Ukraine. A drone was found perched on the roof of a house in a village in Floresti district. □

A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the

presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken



place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.

Special announcement from the Monument Fund Aruba for 2025 Starting Monday, October 13th, until the end of 2025, the California Lighthouse will be closed to the public. The reasoning behind this is that the lighthouse is due for a major maintenance.

Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA) is the owner of the lighthouse and operates under a maintenance plan in which each year, different monuments belonging to the foundation receive upkeep. Recently, work was completed on the Casita Geel on Weststraat, and now it will continue with the California Lighthouse.

Due to the lighthouse's location and its daily use, it is one of the monuments that requires a lot of maintenance. The work is expected to last approximately two and a half months. □

Beautiful areas around Aruba

(Oranjestad)—In Aruba, there are tons of activities that to enjoy during your visit, but sometimes you just want to slow down and enjoy the view. Here are some beautiful areas on the island that will have you in awe.

The hidden Natural Bridge

Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, it's way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear of height. To reach this beauty you must go to San Nicolas and drive up the hill till The Point Lighthouse, park your car and walk until you reach the east point coast and go left along the coastline and good luck going down the



cliff.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and

weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4x4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach. □



A quick snack for the road

Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast! Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around 1/4 inch or so. Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the



pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of

one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □

Bring this voucher and get **20% off** of Ostrich Farm tour on this day

ALL LOCALLY PRODUCED

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH

ARUBA OSTRICH FARM

Famous FARMER'S MARKET

AT THE OSTRICH FARM TIME: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

EVERY 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

1,200,000 Christmas Point Giveaway Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

50/30
Friday!We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players **every**
30 minutes from
7pm to Midnight!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano BarAlhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life



(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that

the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these

fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the



entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □

"Aruba to us is perfection"

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promo-

tional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Sue and Chuck Heron from Little Falls, New York.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is perfection. There is nothing that can compare to the friendliness, beauty, weather, food, fun and sun that Aruba provides to us. We have made so many here, local and stateside, too. Even Santa would agree!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for

urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.



Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by

flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Coneu (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigro-nuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Coneu, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Coneu can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Coneu has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they

are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Coneu is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Coneu is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Coneu can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. □



Meet an Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassastraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from august 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was



not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several painting using his unique

style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs).

Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by

his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of



our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or

kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fonds and straws were used, allowing air to flow

freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").



Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm ani-

mals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century.

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw □

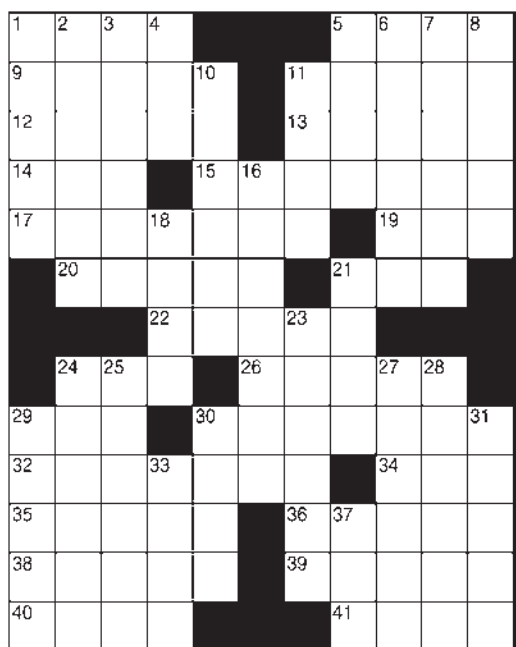
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Circle
1 Pivot
5 Lose
freshness
9 Our home
11 Lover of
drama
12 Aerie
builder
13 City-
based
14 Second
person
15 Purpose
of certain
machines
17 Un-
decided
19 Arthur
of TV
20 Not
moving
21 That
lady
22 Digression
24 Animation
frame
26 Singer
Frankie
29 Buddy
30 Watching
over
32 Bank
business
34 Butter unit
35 Korean
or Thai
36 Tony-
winning
musical
of 1980
38 Halloween
haul

DOWN

- 1 Chimney
cleaner
2 Bread
buys
3 Memo
stamp
4 Wing
5 Dictionary
entry
6 Drink
7 Horse-
shoes
score
8 Poly-
nesian
nation
10 New
Jersey
team
11 Ladder
step
16 Put some
zest into
18 Old
radio
feature
21 Occupied
23 Hazard
24 Forum
VIP
25 Weather-
influencing
current
27 Lusty
urges
28 How some
games end
29 Site
30 Wee
31 Arthurian
quest
33 June
honorees
37 Big truck



12-13

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

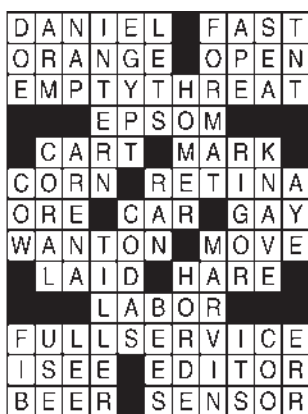
12-13 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

O E V G T G E T A G W U G D E U X S

V G A X F H M B E U . — E A W B .

"BUEYGH"

Cryptoquote: I'M AT A PLACE IN MY LIFE WHEN ERRANDS ARE STARTING TO COUNT AS GOING OUT. — ANONYMOUS



Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 01 - 07 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	01	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00	20.00	C	1
TUE	02	ROTTERDAM	07.00	****	B	1
		AIDAMAR	08.00	18.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	03	ROTTERDAM - Dept.	****	17.00	B	
		BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	04	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CORAL PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	C	1
		SEABOURN OVATION	09.00	22.00	I	1
		SILVER SHADOW	08.00	18.00	H	1
FRI	05	CARNIVAL LIBERTY	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	06	KONINGS DAM	07.00	16.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
		STAR CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	G	1
SUN	07	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

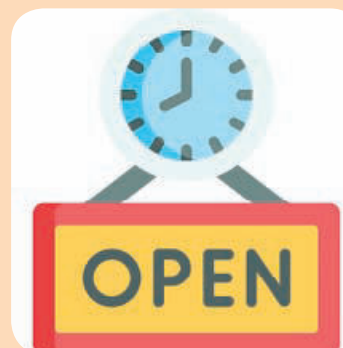
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

6				1			2	
2	9			6			8	
		3	2					7
			6	7				
			9			7	5	3
	2		8			6		9
	3					8	7	
1		7		4				
				8				6

Difficulty: ★★★★★

12/5

Answer to previous puzzle

1	2	7	8	6	4	3	9	5
9	3	4	2	7	5	1	8	6
8	6	5	3	9	1	7	4	2
2	1	9	7	4	3	5	6	8
4	8	6	5	1	9	2	7	3
7	5	3	6	2	8	4	1	9
5	4	2	9	8	7	6	3	1
3	9	1	4	5	6	8	2	7
6	7	8	1	3	2	9	5	4

Difficulty: ★★★

12/4

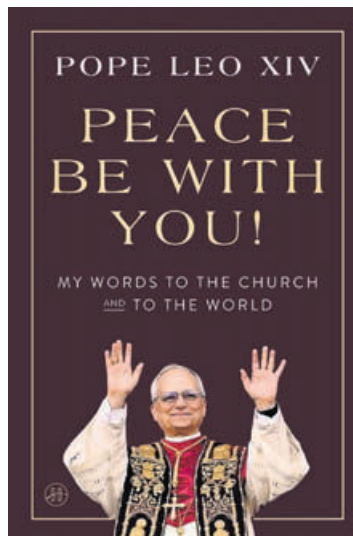
Pope Leo XIV's first full-length US book, 'Peace Be with You,' to be released in February

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The first full-length book by Pope Leo XIV to come out in the U.S. will be published next year.

HarperOne announced Wednesday that it had acquired world rights to "Peace Be with You! My Words to the Church and to the World," scheduled for release on Feb. 26. "Peace Be With You" includes sermons and addresses he has given since his election in May. HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, is calling the book "a vision for peace, unity, and reconciliation in a fractured world."

The title refers to Leo's first public remarks as pope, when he appeared in May



This book cover image released by HarperOne shows "Peace Be With You: My Words to the Church and to the World" by Pope Leo XIV. Associated Press.

on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

"I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world," he said. "Peace be with you!"

HarperOne has previously released works by Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis among others. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores

Richard Brooks

Angenette Figuereo

Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

f @ArubaTodayNews

CLASSIFIEDS

Le Vent

Eagle beach
2 BR 2 1/2 bath
3 rd floor ocean view
Price :\$1,250,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Appartments Complex

Under construction
Monserrat Noord
5 min walk to palm beach
2x 2 BR 1 bath and 3x 1 BR 1 bath
602 m2 commercial land
Price turn key :\$1,000,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Beach

Commercial land to build
12 office spaces (Map approved)
6 ground floor 6 1st floor
2630,92 m2 (53,820 sq feet)
Price :\$750,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

San Fuego near Natural Park
3 BR 3 Bath with 1 restroom
Pool on a property land 4136 m2
Price :\$1,300,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

Washington Noord
5 min drive to palm / eagle beach
3 BR 3 bath with 2 apartment
With pool
Price :\$700,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

219912

Marriott Surf Club

Palm beach
Gold season
3 BR 3 Bath ocean view
Sleep 12
Price :\$ 25,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Renaissance Ocean Suites

Private islands
Christmas week
1 BR WK 51 room # 2136
Ground floor garden view
Price :\$14,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle beach
1 BR Room # 2258
21 weeks remaining
Price :\$10,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle beach
1 BR week 52 room # 3308
16 weeks remaining \$10,000
1 BR week 01 room # 3208
9 weeks remaining \$8000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For Rent

Divi village golf
Eagle beach
1 BR sleep 4
Date : 13 December to 20 December
2025
Price :\$2000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club

Palm beach
2 BR 2 bath sleep 8
Ocean front
Date :15 December to 22 December
2025
Price :\$4000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Time - share owners

Are you interested in sell
Your Time - share in Aruba
Call the expert
40 years doing business
Free appraisal and advertisement
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Central: Tel.585 1965

San Nicolas:

Aloe:Tel.584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

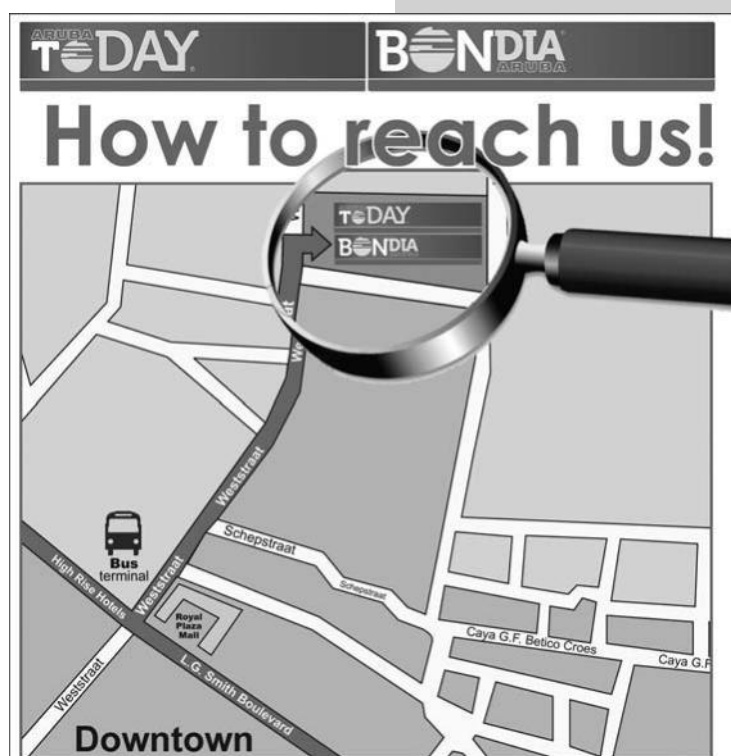
General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS



How to find Spotify Wrapped, YouTube Recap and more as 2025 comes to a close

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The end of 2025 is near. And the season of unwrapping our online lives — or at least a glimpse of what they looked like over the past year — is well underway.

Music streamers, social media sites and a host of other apps have already started delivering their annual recaps into customers' inboxes. That gives users a peak at anything from the top songs they had on repeat and the videos they streamed the most, to on-line language-learning or everyday tips they turned to the internet for in 2025.

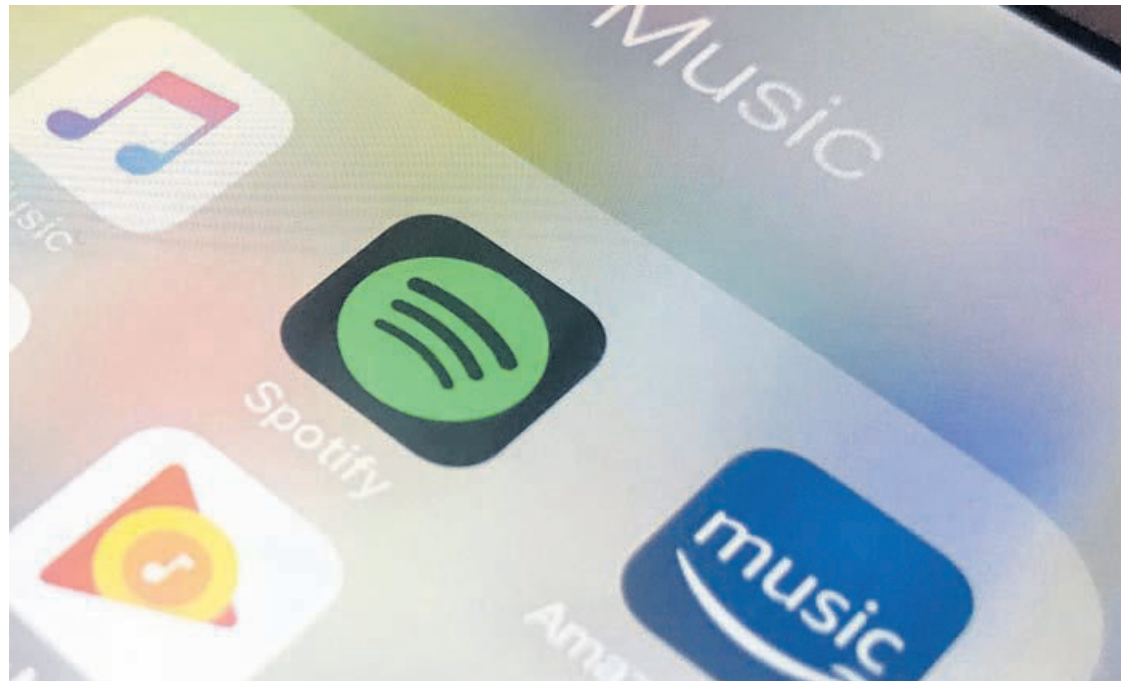
Here's some of the biggest platforms that have already released their 2025 recaps (covering data for at least the majority of the year) and where to find them. Most instruct users to download the latest version of their apps to get the best experience.

Spotify Wrapped

Spotify released its Wrapped on Dec. 3. The platform will prompt users to view their annual "year in audio" recapping the top songs, artists, podcasts and more they streamed the most in 2025 (or, more specifically, January through mid November).

You can otherwise click on "Wrapped" on the top banner on the app to view your stats and download your yearly playlist.

This year, the music streamer is also introducing



This Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, photo shows music streaming apps clockwise from top left, Apple, Spotify, Amazon, Pandora and Google on an iPhone in New York.

Associated Press.

"Wrapped Party" — a feature that allows you to compare listening habits with friends who use Spotify, too. Wrapped Party is only available on Spotify's mobile app. You can start it within Spotify's Wrapped hub or searching for "Wrapped Party" within the app.

YouTube Recap

Google's streaming giant unveiled its new "YouTube Recap" on Dec. 2, starting in North America. Recap gives an overview of YouTube users' watch history over the last year including top artists and songs if you listened to music on the platform.

YouTube said Recap would roll out worldwide over the first week of December. According to the platform, it

can be found on the YouTube homepage or under the "You" profile tab on the mobile app or desktop. You must be signed into the platform and have the latest update.

Apple Replay

Apple Music released its annual "Replay" on Dec. 2 which gives its users a look at their top songs, artists, genres and more streamed on the platform over the past year. To find Replay on the Apple Music app, you need to go to the Home tab, scroll down to "Your Top Music" and then click "Go back in time," Apple says. On the web, you can also sign into your account at replay.music.apple.com and click "Jump In."

Amazon Delivered

Amazon's music and podcasting service also has an annual recap, which is called "Delivered." 2025 Delivered rolled out on Dec. 2 available for Amazon Music customers with at least a few hours of listening history in a dozen countries.

According to Amazon, you can see Delivered by tapping the "Find" button in the Amazon Music App and navigating to "Listen Your Way."

Twitch Recap

Twitch also offers an annual recap for viewers and streamers on the platform. According to the livestreaming site, personalized recaps are only available to those who have watched or streamed at least 10 hours of content on Twitch dur-

ing its yearly window which ran from Oct. 31, 2024 to the end of October this year.

To find your Twitch recap, which went live in early December, users can visit twitch.tv/annual-recap. You will need to have an account to log in.

Duolingo Year in Review

Language-learning app Duolingo also released its annual "year in review" in early December giving users a look at how many lessons, streaks, minutes and more they spent on the app this year.

Duolingo may prompt you to look at your 2025 recap once you open the app. But in the bottom corner of the home navigation page, there's also a small logo you can click on to watch the review.

Google Year In Search

Google released its annual "Year in Search" on Dec. 4, recapping the top trending queries and topics consumers around the world asked the search engine in 2025. You can take a look at 2025's trending searches globally, in addition to country-by-country breakdowns, on Google's Year in Search website. This year, the tech giant is also prompting visitors to get summaries of its annual data "AI Mode" and noted more broadly that it's seen consumers use Google "in more conversational ways" as the search engine's latest artificial intelligence capabilities launched. □



A man walks with a Prada shopping bag in front of a Versace shop, at the Montenapoleone luxury fashion street, in Milan, Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025.

Associated Press.

Creative director Dario Vitale exits Versace two days after Prada's acquisition

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Creative director Dario Vitale is leaving Italian fashion brand Versace only eight months after he was appointed, the company said in a statement Thursday.

Vitale's exit comes just two days after Prada Group finalized its \$1.375 billion cash acquisition of Versace, starting a new era for the brand.

"We would like to sincerely thank Dario for his outstanding contribution to the development of the brand's creative strategy during this transition period, and we wish him all the very best in his future endeavors," Versace said in a statement.

Vitale will exit the brand on Dec. 12 and his successor will be announced in due course, the company added.

Meanwhile, CEO Emmanuel Gintzburger will oversee the creative team. Vitale's ascension at Versace in April marked a dramatic turn for the fashion house. He was only the third creative director after Gianni Versace, who was killed in 1997, and his sister Donatella Versace, who assumed the role after his death until Vitale took over.

His first collection for the house debuted in September. □

Toyota deepens connections in F1 by sponsoring Haas team in 2026

By **STEPHEN WADE**
AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota is increasing its presence in Formula 1 after taking over the title sponsorship of the Haas team on Thursday.

It's another high-profile commitment to F1 by a major automaker as the General Motors-backed Cadillac team prepares to make its debut next year. The team's new name in 2026 will be TGR Haas F1 Team. The TGR stands for Toyota Gazoo Racing, which is the racing division of the Toyota Motor Corporation.

Taking over the title sponsorship means Toyota is more involved in F1 than at any time since it pulled its team out after the 2009 season. Since then, its circuit racing efforts have largely focused on sports-car events, including five straight wins at the 24 Hours of Le Mans from 2018-22.

Haas and Toyota signed a technical partnership a year ago for research, engineering and driver development and the Haas car has carried some Toyota branding since. Toyota-linked Japanese drivers



Haas driver Esteban Ocon of France in action during the sprint qualifying for the Formula One Qatar Grand Prix in Friday, Nov. 28, 2025.

have taken part in tests using older Haas cars.

Haas continues to use Ferrari engines next year under a deal running through 2028, as it has done each year it's raced in F1. Haas has long worked closely with Ferrari and said last year Ferrari was consulted over the founding of its initial Toyota partnership.

Toyota ran its own team in F1 from 2002-09 but failed

to win a race despite spending heavily. It eventually withdrew from the series while the parent company was under financial pressure.

"It's naturally a privilege to deepen our relationship with TGR through this new title partnership agreement," Ayao Komatsu, team principal of Haas, said in a team statement, adding that the existing techni-

cal partnership has already "benefited us greatly."

Akio Toyoda, the chairman of the Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "Throughout our challenges in the 2025 season I witnessed young TGR drivers and engineers begin to believe in their own potential and set their sights on even greater dreams. Seeing this transformation moved me deeply."

Associated Press.

And today I can say this with confidence — Toyota has begun to move. Really move."

Toyoda has said previously he had second thoughts about pulling Toyota out of F1. He said part of his regret was not giving young drivers a better chance to compete in F1.

The length of the sponsorship agreement wasn't immediately clear and the statement mentioned only 2026.

Haas has been in F1 since 2016 and is eighth in the constructors' standings this season, which included Oliver Bearman placing fourth in Mexico. That was Haas' best race result since 2018 even though he fell short of achieving the team's first podium finish.

The final race of 2025 is on Sunday in Abu Dhabi and three drivers are in contention for the world championship.

Lando Norris of McLaren leads by 12 points over Max Verstappen of Red Bull. Oscar Piastri of McLaren is 16 points behind. Norris and Piastri are trying for their first season titles, Verstappen is after his fifth straight. □

Rory McIlroy has a 'rollercoaster' 1st round at the Australian Open, shoots 1-over 72

Associated Press.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Rory McIlroy had a self-described "rollercoaster" of a round Thursday at the Australian Open.

He wasn't exaggerating. McIlroy, whose pre-tournament news conference included comments that Royal Melbourne was not the best sandbelt course in the city, had a wild round of six bogeys and five birdies around the composite course and shot a 1-over 72 to trail the leaders by seven strokes after the first round.

A case of the famed sandbelt course, which has hosted three Presidents Cup tournaments, biting back? The swirling winds in-

cluding gusts of up to 60 kilometers an hour (38 mph) were certainly a factor. "It was a rollercoaster day," McIlroy said. "Every time I got a birdie or two I got a bogey or two. It wasn't terrible. I hit it in a couple of bad spots and had a couple of three-putts as well. I limited the damage. I hope the conditions are better tomorrow."

For the record, the course McIlroy said was the best in Melbourne nearby Kingston Heath will host the Presidents Cup team event in 2028.

McIlroy, the Race to Dubai winner, is making his first appearance at the Australian Open since 2015 he won it in 2013. He started

off his round on the back nine with a birdie on the 10th hole followed by two bogeys.

That was just the start of his topsy-turvy round.

His sixth bogey of the day came at the 135-meter (148-yard) par-3 seventh hole, his 16th, but at least he was in good company. His playing partners Adam Scott and Min Woo Lee also had 4s.

Scott and Lee each shot 69 to trail by four strokes. The trio teed off at 7 a.m. and had thousands of fans following them.

"It was amazing, I couldn't believe how many people were there," McIlroy said of his early-morning entourage. "There are events in

golf that means a little bit more. I think people in Australia take so much pride in this event."

Scott felt the same.

"I mean, playing with Rory and Min and fighting to get to the 10th tee this morning with the crowds was good fun," Scott said. □



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, reacts after putting on the 11th hole during the first round of the Australian Open golf tournament in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025.

Associated Press.



THE CASINO AT
THE RITZ-CARLTON
ARUBA

\$25,000
IN TOTAL PRIZES

DECEMBER 1st - 20th, 2025

DRAWINGS ON FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
STARTING AT 9:30PM
(DECEMBER 12th, 13th, 19th & 20th, 2025)

Receive one (1) raffle ticket for every 80 points / \$40 theoretical win.
Earning period starting December 1st

Must be over the age of 18 years. The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

Olympic flame for Milan Cortina Winter Games arrives in Italy following handover in Greece

By **ANDREA ROSA** and **ELENA BECATOROS**
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The Olympic flame for the Milan Cortina Winter Games landed in Rome on Thursday following a handover in Greece. The flame was carried in a small lantern aboard an ITA Airways flight between the Greek and Italian capitals. Tennis player Jasmine Paolini, an Olympic gold medalist and local organizing committee president Giovanni Malagò, carried the flame off the plane.

"I feel honored. It's an incredible emotion," Paolini said in brief remarks before the lantern was driven away toward the presidential palace.

A 63-day torch relay covering 12,000 kilometers (nearly 7,500 miles) will start in Rome on Saturday and wind its way through all 110 Italian provinces before

reaching Milan's San Siro Stadium for the opening ceremony on Feb. 6.

It's the first time in nearly 20 years since the 2006 Turin Games that Italy has

hosted the flame. On Friday, the flame will be used to light a cauldron at the Quirinale Palace where Italy President Sergio Mattarella resides, with Interna-

tional Olympic Committee president Kirsty Coventry expected to be in attendance. Then the torch relay featuring 10,001 torchbearers will start a day

later from the statue-lined Stadio dei Marmi.

The flame was formally handed to Italian organizers earlier Thursday in the all-marble stadium in central Athens where the first modern Olympics were held nearly 130 years ago.

"To stand here in this historic stadium provides an inspiring reminder of the honor we have been granted and the precious treasure we will carry home with us," Malagò said before receiving the flame. After spending the night burning in a cauldron outside the 5th century B.C. Parthenon temple atop the Acropolis, Greece's most famous landmark, the flame was carried into the Panathenaic stadium by Greek water polo player Elena Xenaki, who lit another cauldron in the stadium along with Greece's women's national water polo team. □



President of the Milano Cortina Organising Committee Giovanni Malagò, right, and Italian Olympic medalist tennis player Jasmine Paolini hold a lantern with the Olympic flame as they arrive at Rome's International airport Leonardo da Vinci from Athens, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025.

Associated Press.